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DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE,  
INVESTMENT PROGRAM

SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE GREATER THAN EXPECTED -- Hospodar, No 9, 2 Mar 50

The Soviet-Czechoslovak trade agreement for 1950, signed on 22 February in Moscow, guarantees greater exchange of goods than had been anticipated for 1950 in the 5-year trade agreement.

Czechoslovakia will import from the USSR 460,000 tons of wheat, 100,000 tons of corn, 150,000 tons of fodder barley, and 15,000 tons of oil cake, as well as meat, butter, oil seeds, rice, tea, and lentils. It will also import 1,300,000 tons of iron ore, as well as large quantities of copper, lead, zinc, manganese ore, manganese dioxide, various ferroalloys, nickel, aluminum, foundry and steel pig iron, silver, platinum, oil, petroleum distillates, various types of industrial wood, various raw materials for chemical and metallurgical production, cotton, wool, flax, jute, antifriction bearings, and other products. Modern machinery and equipment will also be imported.

Czechoslovakia will export to the USSR pipes, rails, cables, locomotives, power and other equipment, sugar, footwear, textiles, and other products.

CZECHOSLOVAK AID TO CHINA INDICATED -- Svobodny Zitrek, No 15, 7 Mar 50

The Czechoslovak trade delegation to China left Prague on 10 February. Dr Gregor, Minister of Foreign Trade, stayed for a time in Moscow and was officially announced as attending a banquet given at the Kremlin in honor of Mao Tse-tung.

The simultaneous presence of the Czechoslovak economic minister in Moscow and the departure of the Prague economic delegation to Peiping suggests that economic development of Communist China with Czechoslovak assistance was involved.

Soviet demands on Czechoslovak production are continuously increasing, but without equivalent compensation. -- P. J.

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GIVES TERMS OF AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 717, 5 Apr 50

As reported from Stockholm, a new Czechoslovak-Swedish trade agreement went into effect 1 February 1950, involving exports and imports amounting to 135 million Czechoslovak crowns and 119 million Swedish crowns.

Under the agreement Czechoslovakia will supply 40,000 - 50,000 tons of sugar, 300 tons of hops, 29,000 tons of commercial iron, 7,000 tons of pipes, finished textile products amounting to 11.5 million crowns, yarns amounting to 8 million and machinery worth 14 million crowns, as well as chemicals, glass, and porcelain. Swedish shipments will consist of 920,000 tons of iron ore, ball bearings amounting to 6 million crowns, ferroalloys worth 5 million, machinery and apparatus worth 22 million, chemicals worth 9 - 10 million, and powdered eggs worth one million crowns.

While total trade exchanges show no increase over 1949, Czechoslovakia's sugar exports to Sweden will be about four times as high as last year and Swedish imports of hops will be nearly doubled.

For the first time, an agreement was concluded concerning granting of export licenses for so-called nonessential goods. Both parties agreed to license export of such goods to the extent of 21 million crowns each, covering Swedish imports of automobiles worth 5 million, motorcycles worth one million, and tractors worth 1.8 million crowns, and Czechoslovak imports of 1.5 million crowns' worth of fish, powdered milk worth 1.5 million crowns, and powdered eggs, solvents, electric light bulbs, carpet sweepers, and oil burners.

CZECHOSLOVAK-SWISS TRADE DECLINES -- Journal de Geneve, No 101, 1 May 50

Czechoslovak exports to Switzerland, which amounted to 146,800,000 francs in 1948, declined to 95,300,000 francs in 1949, according to Consul Ernest Jokl, who spoke at the annual General Assembly of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland on 29 April in Zurich. Jokl also said that the Swiss exports to Czechoslovakia declined from 128,100,000 francs to 89,600,000 francs.

REVISE SYSTEM OF INVESTMENTS -- Hospodar, No 10, 9 Mar 50

On 7 March the government approved a measure aimed at securing the rational execution of the investment program. It approved, on the suggestion of Minister-Chairman Dr J. Dolansky, an order concerning the investment paper for 1950 construction. According to this order, only those constructions for which an investment paper has been issued (except for certain maintenance work) will be conducted in 1950.

Investment papers will be approved by the so-called administrators of detailed investment sums, i.e., by the central offices for centrally planned construction or occasionally by the general managements. In the case of kraj-planned construction, they will be approved by the kraj national committees, which will also express themselves concerning centrally planned constructions; their opinions will be considered by the proper office.

An investment paper may be issued only for those constructions for which a plan has been worked out, a preliminary calculation made, and financing secured. Investment papers will replace the unsatisfactory records and will be a suitable basis for control, which will be conducted by the Investment Bank and the kraj national committees.

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INVESTMENT BANK REORGANIZED -- Hospodar, No 10, 9 Mar 50

The reorganization of the Investment Bank has been prepared. The cabinet approved the bill on 7 March. The nine-member board of directors and the same number of members, including the supervisory council, will be eliminated, and the management of the bank will be entrusted to one person, the general manager, appointed by the Minister of Finance. The regional manager will be in charge of the regional institution for Slovakia.

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